Course Description

Participating in the political revolution, religious ferment, and literary experimentation of his time, the poetry and prose of John Milton offer us fascinating and beautiful examples of the engagement of literature with real-world political and ethical crises. This work may resonate with particular force in our own time and place. Students in ENG 442/542 will learn about Milton’s work as a literary, political, and religious radical across his long career. We’ll read his major poetry and additional texts, engaging topics that will include his understanding of individuality; literary invention and ambition; marriage, partnership, and sexuality; faith and sin; environmental purity and corruption; and the necessity of government to meet the needs of the governed. There will be weekly readings, in addition to which students will be asked to perform one close reading exercise and 2 essays (see “assignments” below).

Learning Outcomes

ENG 442 will (1) familiarize students with the major poetic works of John Milton and, in the process, (2) show how such familiarity with the span of a career of a single author can enrich understanding of the texts we read. The course will (3) acquaint students with criticism and scholarly debate and (4) advance students’ work on their own critical writing, including argumentation, the creation of original critical claims, and technical components of writing.

The course meets Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 2-2:50 pm in 176 Lokey Education Building.

Contact information for Prof. Bovilsky:
Office: PLC 246                Email: bovilsky@uoregon.edu
Office hours:  M 11:30-1 and F 11-12:30 or by appointment

Required Text

Oxford Authors John Milton, ed. Orgel and Goldberg (available in the Duckstore)

All additional readings will be available on e-reserves or in handouts.

M Jan 8    Introduction

W Jan 10   “At a Solemn Music”; “On Shakespeare”; Sonnets 2-5; “Canzone” “Lycidas” (“Lycidas” likely for discussion on Friday)

M Jan 15  NO CLASS – MLK, JR. HOLIDAY

W Jan 17  “A Masque…Presented at Ludlow Castle” [Comus], entire piece

Prose

F Jan 19  *Areopagitica*

M Jan 22  *Areopagitica*

Epic!

W Jan 24  *Paradise Lost, Book 1*

Th Jan 25  *Close reading exercise due, 3 pm*

F Jan 26  *PL, Book 2*

M Jan 29  Continued discussion, PL Books 1-2 + Stanley Fish, *Surprised By Sin* 1.i-ii; William Empson, *Milton’s God*, Chapter 1, 2, 7 (selections)

W Jan 31  PL, Book 3, ll. 1-415; Sonnet 16: “When I consider how my light is spent”; Jonathan Goldberg, “Dating Milton”

F Feb 2  PL, Book 3, ll. 416-742; Book 4; ll. 1-355

M Feb 5  PL, Book 4, ll. 356-1015; *Surprised By Sin* 5.ii-iii

W Feb 7  PL, Book 5, ll. 1-505

F Feb 9  PL, Book 5, ll. 506-907, *Milton’s God*, Chapter 4

M Feb 12  PL, Book 6

W Feb 14  PL, Book 7; Andrew Mattison, *Milton’s Uncertain Eden* Chapter 2

F Feb 16  PL, Book 8

M Feb 19  Continued discussion/catchup; *Surprised By Sin* Chapter 6

T Feb 20  *Paper due, 3 pm*

W Feb 21  PL, Book 9, ll. 1-612

F Feb 23  PL, Book 9, ll. 614-1189
M Feb 26  
*PL*, Book 10; Sonnet 19: “Methought I saw my late espousèd saint”

W Feb 28  
*PL*, Book 11, ll. 1-526

F March 2  
*PL*, Book 11, ll. 526-901

M March 5  
*PL*, Book 12

Late verse

W March 7  
Paradise Regained, Book 1, Book 2, ll. 1-259

F March 9  
*PR*, Book 2, ll. 260-486; Book 3, ll. 1-202

M March 12  
*PR*, Book 3, ll. 203-443; Book 4; Regina Schwartz, “Milton’s Cosmic Body”

W March 14  
Samson Agonistes, ll. 1-996

F March 16  

*Final paper due*

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Participation in discussion is strongly encouraged.

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory; more than three unexcused absences will result in your final grade being lowered as follows. Four unexcused absences will lower your grade two-thirds of a full letter grade (A- becomes B); five will lower your grade one full letter grade (A- becomes B-). Six or more unexcused absences will mean a failing grade.

Assignments

One close reading exercise (2-3 pp); two papers (4-6 pp; 5-7 pp).

Assignments must be typed in 12-point font, be double spaced, and have reasonable margins (1 inch is generally standard; greater than 1.25 inch will not be accepted). You may work from MLA or Chicago format: just be consistent.

Please proofread and revise your written work. Extensive sloppiness and mechanical errors will result in a lower grade.
Late assignments lose one letter grade per day, including weekends and holidays. You may request an extension if the paper is due more than 72 hours (3 days) later, and the earlier the better: extensions are not guaranteed. In case of a looming or unexpected disaster, consideration will be given if you keep me in the loop and communicate in advance. Stay in touch.

No incompletes will be granted except in case of documented emergency.

GRADES

A final grade of C or better in the course is required for English major credit. Final grades are based on papers and exams.

Final grades are assessed according to the following base rubric (**but see below**):

- **8% Critical Summary** (your choice: due the day we complete the reading)
- **15% Close Reading assignment** (2-3 pp, due Thursday, January 25)
- **35% Paper 1** (4-6 pp, due Tuesday, Feb 20)
- **42% Final Paper** (5-7 pp, due Friday, March 16)

**I may choose to alter the above proportions to respond to your individual situation. For instance, I may skew percentages to reward improvement over the course of the term. You can also raise your grade through class participation – contributing usefully to class discussion and to dialogue with your peers, asking questions, paying attention.**

PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in this course or at this university. All work submitted in this course must be your own and be written exclusively for this course. The use of sources (ideas, quotations, paraphrases) must be properly documented. This includes ideas you get from your classmates (discussion and kicking ideas around is encouraged, so long as you document where discussion with a peer impacted your argument) and ideas you get from websites as well as books and other media. See the library website (under “guides”) for citation practices. You are not allowed to cut and paste from internet sites into your paper.

**N.B.** Most internet content on Milton aimed at students is not written at the college level. Taking from this work, even in the case that you are not caught, often results in a lower grade.

Academic dishonesty will result in an automatic failing grade for this course. Definitions of cheating and plagiarism are available in the “Student Conduct Code” section of the Student Life website (http://studentlife.uoregon.edu); please familiarize yourself with these if you are not clear on what constitutes cheating or plagiarism. You are also welcome to contact me if you have any questions about these definitions. I am very happy to talk to you about this!

If you are having trouble writing a paper or understanding what I am looking for, please contact me. I do not expect that you already know how to do what I am teaching you. Extra help is always available. There’s nothing wrong with getting something wrong – sometimes it takes
mistakes to learn, and this is not something to panic about. However, if you take ideas from elsewhere and pass them off as your own, you learn nothing – so the next paper will therefore be no easier – and risk extreme academic penalties.

ACCOMMODATIONS

All appropriate accommodations will be provided for students with documented disabilities. If you have a documented disability and require accommodation, you must meet with or contact me by Friday, January 19. I assume that you will also meet with the Accessible Education Center, which will help provide needed accommodations.
Course Description

Participating in the political revolution, religious ferment, and literary experimentation of his time, the poetry and prose of John Milton offer us fascinating and beautiful examples of the engagement of literature with real-world political and ethical crises. This work may resonate with particular force in our own time and place. Students in ENG 542 will learn about Milton’s work as a literary, political, and religious radical across his long career. We’ll read his major poetry and additional texts, engaging topics that will include his understanding of individuality; literary invention and ambition; marriage, partnership, and sexuality; faith and sin; environmental purity and corruption; and the necessity of government to meet the needs of the governed. Graduate students in the course will be asked to do some additional critical readings (listed below); we will hold 3-5 meetings to discuss those readings. Graduate students will complete a brief close reading; a paper draft; and a final paper. Some class participation is required of graduate students.

Learning Outcomes

ENG 542 will (1) familiarize students with the major poetic works of John Milton and, in the process, (2) show how such familiarity with the span of a career of a single author can enrich understanding of the texts we read. The course will (3) acquaint students with some major Milton criticism and (4) advance students’ work on their own critical writing, including argumentation, the creation of original critical claims, and technical components of writing. ENG 542 will include some discussion of pedagogy.

The course meets Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 2-2:50 pm in 176 Lokey Education Building.

Contact information for Prof. Bovilsky:
Office: PLC 246  Email: bovilsky@uoregon.edu
Office hours: M 11:30-1 and F 11-12:30 or by appointment

Required Text

Oxford Authors John Milton, ed. Orgel and Goldberg (available in the Duckstore)

All additional readings will be available on e-reserves or in handouts.

M Jan 8 Introduction
Early lyrics
W Jan 10  “At a Solemn Music”; “On Shakespeare”; Sonnets 2-5; “Canzone” “Lycidas”
(“Lycidas” likely for discussion on Friday)

*Grad reading: Ryan Netzley, Lyric Apocalypse, Chapter 3

M Jan 15  NO CLASS – MLK, JR. HOLIDAY

W Jan 17  “A Masque…Presented at Ludlow Castle” [Comus], entire piece

Prose
F Jan 19  Areopagitica

M Jan 22  Areopagitica
*Grad reading, Shannon Miller, Engendering the Fall, Chapter 3

Epic!
W Jan 24  Paradise Lost, Book 1

Th Jan 25  *Close reading exercise due, 3 pm*

F Jan 26  PL, Book 2

M Jan 29  Continued discussion, PL Books 1-2 + Stanley Fish, Surprised By Sin 1.i-ii;
William Empson, Milton’s God, Chapter 1, 2, 7 (selections)

W Jan 31  PL, Book 3, ll. 1-415; Sonnet 16: “When I consider how my light is spent”;
Jonathan Goldberg, “Dating Milton”

F Feb 2   PL, Book 3, ll. 416-742; Book 4; ll. 1-355

M Feb 5   PL, Book 4, ll. 356-1015; Surprised By Sin 5.ii-iii

W Feb 7   PL, Book 5, ll. 1-505

F Feb 9   PL, Book 5, ll. 506-907, Milton’s God, Chapter 4
*Grad reading, John Rogers, “The Political theology of Milton’s Heaven”

M Feb 12  PL, Book 6

W Feb 14  PL, Book 7; Andrew Mattison, Milton’s Uncertain Eden Chapter 2

F Feb 16  PL, Book 8

M Feb 19  Continued discussion/catchup; Surprised By Sin Chapter 6
W Feb 21  \(PL\), Book 9, ll. 1-612

F Feb 23  \(PL\), Book 9, ll. 614-1189
*Grad reading, Judith Sherer Herz, “Meanwhile: (Un)making Time in \textit{Paradise Lost}”

M Feb 26  \(PL\), Book 10; Sonnet 19: “Methought I saw my late espousèd saint”
*Grad readings, Shannon Miller, \textit{Engendering the Fall}, Chapter 1; Thomas Festa, “Eve and the Ironic Theodicy of the New Milton Criticism”

W Feb 28  \(PL\), Book 11, ll. 1-526

F March 2  \(PL\), Book 11, ll. 526-901

M March 5  \(PL\), Book 12
*Grad reading, Seth Lobis, \textit{The Virtue of Sympathy}, Chapter 4

\begin{center}
\textbf{Late verse}
\end{center}

W March 7  \textit{Paradise Regained}, Book 1, Book 2, ll. 1-259

F March 9  \textit{PR}, Book 2, ll. 260-486; Book 3, ll. 1-202

M March 12  \textit{PR}, Book 3, ll. 203-443; Book 4; Regina Schwartz, “Milton’s Cosmic Body”
*Grad reading, Samuel Johnson, “The Life of Milton”

W March 14  \textit{Samson Agonistes}, ll. 1-996

*Final paper due*

\section*{COURSE REQUIREMENTS}

\textbf{Participation in discussion is strongly encouraged.}

\section*{Attendance}

Attendance is mandatory; more than three unexcused absences will result in your final grade being lowered as follows. Four unexcused absences will lower your grade two-thirds of a full letter grade (A- becomes B); five will lower your grade one full letter grade (A- becomes B-). Six or more unexcused absences will mean a failing grade.
Assignments

One close reading exercise (3-4 pp); a paper draft (10-15 pp.); a final paper (12-20 pp.). I am open to other forms depending on the needs of this particular stage of your degree.

Assignments must be typed in 12-point font, be double spaced, and have reasonable margins (1 inch is generally standard; greater than 1.25 inch will not be accepted). You may work from MLA or Chicago format: just be consistent.

Please proofread and revise your written work. Extensive sloppiness and mechanical errors will result in a lower grade.

No incompletes will be granted except in case of documented emergency.

GRADES

Final grades are assessed according to the following rubric:

- 8% Critical Summary (your choice: due the day we complete the reading)
- 15% Close Reading assignment (3-4 pp, due Thursday, January 25)
- 15% Paper draft (10-15 pp, due between February 19-26)
- 12% Class Participation
- 50% Final Paper (12-20 pp, due Monday, March 19)

PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING

Academic dishonesty is not tolerated in this course or at this university. Please let me know if you have any questions about use and proper acknowledgement of sources

ACCOMMODATIONS

All appropriate accommodations will be provided for students with documented disabilities. If you have a documented disability and require accommodation, you must meet with or contact me by Friday, January 19. I assume that you will also meet with the Accessible Education Center, which will help provide needed accommodations.